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# London Archaeologist

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT HALE WHARF, TOTTENHAM**

**PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY IN THE LEA VALLEY AT IVE FARM, LEYTON**

**MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL REMAINS IN ISLINGTON**

**ROMAN MOSAICS AT SOUTHWARK STREET**

**COMMUNITY HERITAGE IN SOUTHWARK**

**THE FUTURE OF THE ROYAL MINT SITE**





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**Front cover**

Excavations by PCA at Brandon House in Southwark in 2015 uncovered this bowling ball, probably made of *lignum vitae* – a hard durable wood – it is in remarkably good condition. Inscribed HR (see above), the initials may stand for Henricus Rex, or Henry VIII, a king who very much liked bowling. Henry's palaces – Hampton Court, Nonsuch and Whitehall – all included bowling alleys.

Brandon House lay on the west side of Borough High Street (see LA 14 (6) (2015), 160–1) and was the main residence of Charles Brandon, the first Duke of Suffolk, a military leader and courtier. Brandon was a close friend of Henry VIII, and became his brother-in-law when he married Henry's sister, Mary Tudor.

Games such as tennis, wrestling, jousting and bowling provided exercise for the elite, allowing them not just to socialise but also to scheme with their peers. They chose the shape of the bowling ball – either flatter, round weighted or round – depending on the type of playing surface.

Photo: © PCA